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August 12, 1961 - Saturday

Nothing interesting in the telegrams today. We had a lunch at the Residence for Kay Halle Winsor French, Mr. and Mrs. Norman Wechsler of Cleveland, Pamela Berry, and John Marriott. Tonight we dined at Pamela Berry's who had as her guests Clayton Fritchie, Nickels his daughter and son-in-law, the ~~Mr.~~ Hugh Gaitskells and others. I had some useful political talk with Gaitskell.

August 13, 1961 - Sunday

I was called early this morning from the Embassy to be told of a bomb scare. It seemed a package has been discovered at the back of the building giving off a ticking noise and on the outside is scrawled "Viva Castro". ^{Our} ~~the~~ people have sent for the bomb disposal squad. Late in the day it turned out there was nothing in the parcel except a normally functioning alarm clock.

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_____ Joe Harsch got me on the telephone and told me what he was hearing from his people in Berlin about the closing of the borders this morning by the East German Government. This is a serious matter and may result in riots and even greater disturbances. We should do everything we can to discourage violent demonstrations. These events will have a marked effect if the East Germans act vigorously in cutting off the flow of refugees to the West. Khrushchev is undoubtedly now prepared to test _____ seriously the firmness of ourselves and our allies over Berlin. We went down to see the O'Shaughnessy's this afternoon. They are leaving tomorrow for a trip to Ireland, and I wanted to obtain Elm's views about Berlin. Since the focus of allied planning is now in Washington, we should be hearing from the so-called Ambassadorial Group there about what our official line is to be.

August 14, 1961 - Monday

At nine o'clock this morning, I was at the West London Shooting School, opposite Northolt Airport. I shot at 100 clay pigeons, thrown at various angles and heights, and was not displeased at the result, although because of not mounting my guns properly I have a black and blue shoulder.

We lunched at Pamela Berry's with Clayton Pritchis, Kay Halle, Maurice Edelman and Charles Wintour. Edelman is a good-looking Labour M.P. who has written popular novels. He is said to be a proficient lady-killer. Wintour is the editor of The Evening Standard.

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